Rome - 21st April - Saturday 1877

My dear Aunt Maria.

I thought you would like to hear from me - as I how I found dear Papa. We arrived here this day week - and although we did not get to the house till about 11 o'clock - he was still up - and really looking most wonderfully well - He looks very young for his age - but he is very crippled in his knees from the rheumatism that he has had - so his walking is rather an effort - but he

never gives in - and is most
energetic, and really manages
to get on very well - His mind
is as fresh as ever - and his
memory most perfect - he
is a most amusing companion
He is very comfortable here - for
Dr & Mrs Valleriani are most kind
people - & devoted to him - & so
he has always a doctor at his
elbow - who watches him - & looks
after him - Then he has dicks a
dear good devoted servant
Beta - who has been now so many
years with him She looks well
after him - so altogether he is as
comfortable as he can be - &

although he must feel sometimes
not having any of us with him.
Yet he really is so cheerful & happy
that I think he does not fret
about it. I do wish it was nearer
& that we could see him oftener.
He has enjoyed our coming very
much. I have been busy getting
him a carpet. which he wanted
very much. but had not made
up his mind yet. so I have
got it for him. & I hope on Monday
to have it put down. much
to have him left very comfortable
We go away on Friday next. it
has been a short visit. not quite
a fortnight. but we have not
more than 6 weeks holiday.
We are going on to Venice —